ABSTRACT

The invention provides for converting a digital HDTV or SDTV video and/or audio signal(s) into a compatible analog signal which is compatible with existing analog systems, especially those of NTSC, PAL or SECAM types. The compatible analog signal carries the video and/or audio in a quasi digital form which provides immunity to analog noise and distortion. Digital video and audio are compressed to provide a digital compressed signal. The compressed video and audio signals are coupled to a digital to analog formatter where they are formatted into an NTSC, PAL, or SECAM compatible analog signal. The NTSC, PAL, or SECAM compatible analog signal has standard blanking interval with standard sync and burst. The active video portion of the signal uses a multilevel pulse amplitude coded signal to carry the digital compressed signal. The converted analog signal can then be stored or transmitted using existing NTSC, PAL, or SECAM standards for storage or transmission media. The present invention also provides for converting the specially formatted NTSC, PAL or SECAM analog signal back to a digital HDTV or SDTV video and or analog signal such that conventional NTSC, PAL or SECAM analog video storage and transmission equipment can be used to store or transmit the digital video and audio signal with little or no loss in signal quality.